

# The myth of the Triassic lytoceratid ammonite *Trachyphyllites* Arhaber, 1927, in reality an Early Jurassic *Analytoceras hermanni* Gümbel, 1861

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## ABSTRACT:

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The ammonoid “*Trachyphyllites costatum*” Arhaber (1927), based on a single specimen from an erratic boulder of presumed Late Triassic (Norian age) from Timor, (Indonesia), was originally described as a phylloceratid but later recognized as a true lytoceratid by Basse (1952) and Schindewolf (1961), and used by Wiedmann (1966a, 1966b, 1970) to support his idea of a polyphyletic origin of the post-Triassic ammonoids and of the Late Triassic roots of the lytoceratids. New collections of additional specimens and associated taxa from other erratic boulders in the type locality have confirmed observations (Tozer 1971; Krystyn 1978) that the age of the original boulder was misinterpreted, and have shown that “*Trachyphyllites*” is actually of Early Jurassic (Hettangian) age.

An unpublished generic revision of the entire superfamily Lytoceratoidea by Hoffmann (2009) has shown that “*Trachyphyllites costatum* Arhaber” is a junior synonym of *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel, 1861), a taxon thought by Wöhner (1894) to be a subjective synonym of *Analytoceras articulatum* (J. Sowerby, 1831). We re-establish the species *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel, 1861) for *Analytoceras articulatum* “Type B” (Wöhner 1894), which is characterized by a wide umbilicus and a small whorl expansion rate. The morphologically distinct “Type A” (Wöhner 1894) corresponds to the type species of *Analytoceras*, *A. articulatum* (J. Sowerby, 1831). A revised phylogeny of the Early Jurassic lytoceratids is presented.

**Key words:** Jurassic; Lytoceratoidea; *Trachyphyllites*; Phylogeny; Systematic; Timor.

## INTRODUCTION – HISTORY OF AN ERROR

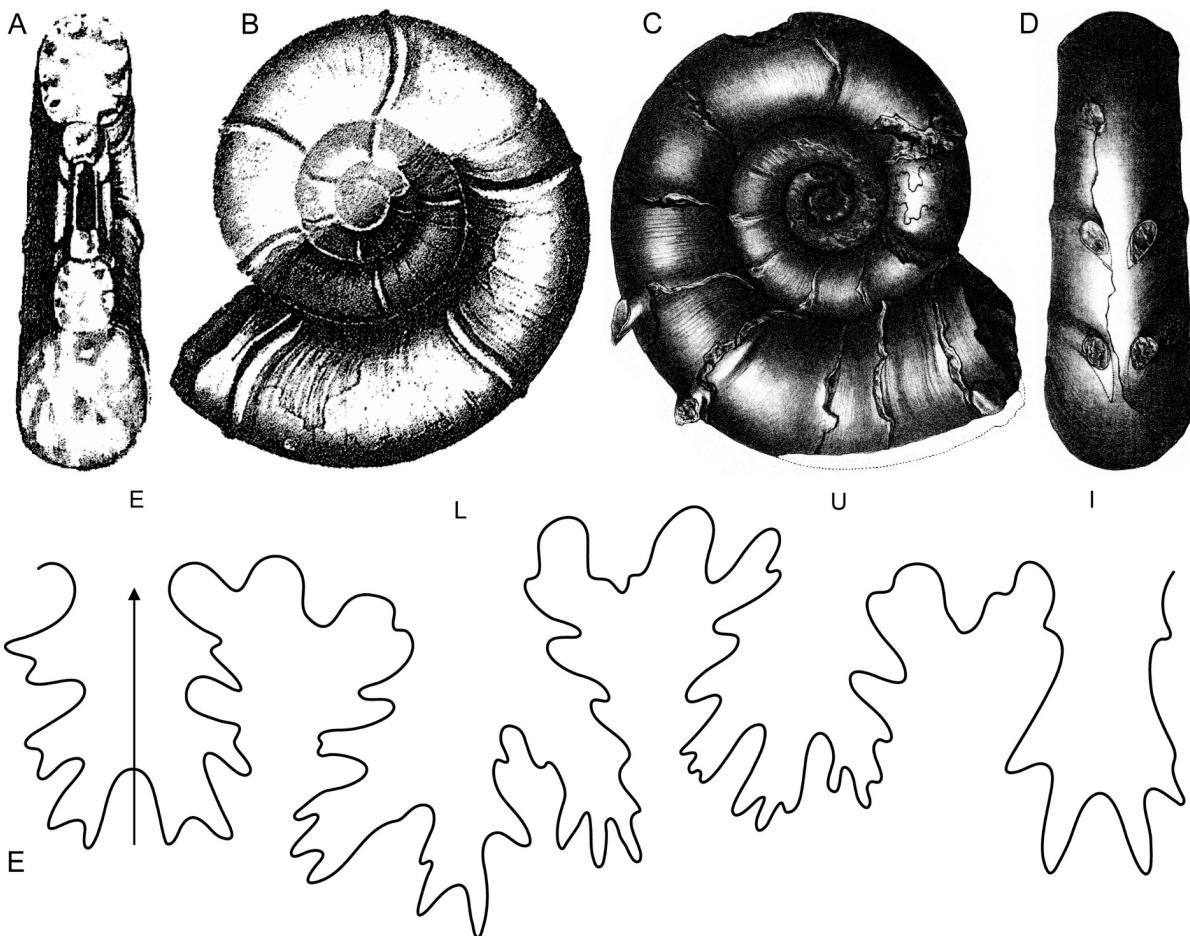
Arhaber (1927) introduced the new taxon “*Trachyphyllites costatus*” (Text-fig. 1A, B) based on a single ammonoid fragment from an erratic boulder of the Bihati river near Baun/SW Timor, which was collected by the Dutch expedition to Indonesia (Dutch East-Indies) during 1916 and thought by him to be of Late Triassic (Norian) age. He classified his new taxon originally within the Monophyllitidae as a subgenus of *Monophyllites* and interpreted the similarities with

Early Jurassic lytoceratids as possible analogies. Spath (1934) classified the monospecific genus “*Trachyphyllites*” within the more progressive phylloceratid family Discophyllitidae owing to the complex suture line showing subdivided saddles (Text-fig. 1E). This systematic position was accepted by Arkell *et al.* (1957), Orlov (1958) and Houša (1965). Basse (1952) and Schindewolf (1961, p. 722) first postulated the systematic position of “*Trachyphyllites*” in the Lytoceratoidea on the basis of analysis of the suture line and thought that, in consequence of the presumed Norian

age of the single specimen of "*Trachyphyllites costatus*", the development of lytoceratids started from phylloceratid ancestors early in the Triassic. The subsequent classification of "*Trachyphyllites*" within the lytoceratids can be traced back to Wiedmann (1964, 1966a). He established the monospecific family *Trachyphyllitidae* (nom corr. ex *Trachyphylloceratidae* Wiedmann 1966a, Shevyrev 1968) as the proposed stem group of all "Lytocerataceae", this being confirmed by finding weakly fimbriate lineation on the shell of Arthaber's single specimen. This viewpoint was followed by the majority of cephalopod workers, e.g. Schindewolf 1968; Shevyrev 1968; Hölder 1975; Lehmann 1976; Drushchits *et al.* 1976; Kennedy 1977; Kennedy and Klinger 1978; Wiedenmayer 1978, and later by Wiedmann 1981; Besnossov and Mikhailova 1985 and Lehmann 1990.

In consequence of the presumed Norian age of the earliest lytoceratid ("*Trachyphyllites*"), Wiedmann (1966a, 1966b) used this single specimen to support his idea of a polyphyletic origin of the post-Triassic ammonoids and of the Late Triassic roots of the lytoceratids (Wiedmann 1966a, 1966b, 1970). According to this concept, the lytoceratid lineage would have arisen from the Skythian *Leiophyllites/Eophyllites* stock (Teichert 1967; Wiedmann 1970). In any case, this evolutionary concept for post-Triassic ammonoids had been already rejected by Tozer (1971a, 1971b).

After the position of "*Trachyphyllites*" among the lytoceratids had been generally accepted by Houša (1965), Teichert (1967), Schindewolf (1968), Shevyrev (1968) and Kennedy (1977), Tozer (1971a, 1971b) first expressed doubts concerning the correct stratigraphic assignment of the erratic boulder from Timor in which the



Text-fig. 1. Comparison of "*Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber" and "*Ammonites* Hermanni Gümbel. A-B – Original illustrations of the artificially completed specimen of "*Trachyphyllites costatus*". A sectional view. B. lateral view; reproduced from Arthaber (1927, pl. 17, fig. 3 a-c). C-D – Original illustrations of "*Ammonites* Hermanni Gümbel, 1861. C – Lateral view, note the simplified suture line. D – ventral view; reproduced from Währer (1894, pl. 3, fig. 3a-b). E – suture line of "*Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber" as presented by Arthaber (1927) and reproduced from Schindewolf (1961, text-fig. 42); from the accepted systematic position of "*Trachyphyllites*" it becomes clear that U is U2 and U1 is between U2 and I

specimen of “*Trachyphyllites*” was found. The problems of the condensed beds of the Hallstatt facies were discussed in detail by Wendt (1970) and Tozer (1971b). Welter (1914) was the first who discussed the problems of the Hallstatt facies in Timor. He concluded that the whole of the Upper Triassic was represented by a mere two metres of rock representing a time span of about eight ammonoid-zones (about 10 m. y.). In the Bihati river region, numerous erratic boulders of differing sizes and stratigraphic positions (Permian to Early Jurassic) are incorporated in a Tertiary mass flow deposit. Because the boulders of Late Triassic (Carnian/Norian) and Early Jurassic (Hettangian) age both show a similar Hallstatt facies of grey to reddish limestones containing mainly cephalopod shells covered by black manganese crusts (Keupp 2009), it is very difficult to make correct stratigraphic assignments for individual erratic boulders. It is therefore not surprising that Arthaber, who had never visited Timor and had never seen the boulder from which the *Trachyphyllites* specimen had been removed, assumed incorrectly that it was of Triassic rather than Early Jurassic age. Krystyn (1978) confirmed that “*Trachyphyllites costatus*” was associated with a characteristic fauna of Early Jurassic (Hettangian) ammonites, on the basis of new specimens collected from the type locality during the early 1970s. In consequence of the proof of an Early Jurassic age of “*Trachyphyllites*”, the arguments for a polyphyletic origin of the post-Triassic ammonites (Wiedmann 1966b, 1970) and of the Late Triassic roots of the lytoceratids no longer apply and were rejected (Tozer 1981). The recent record of a probable *Trachyphyllites* sp. in the Upper Triassic *marshi* Zone (Lucas and Tanner 2004) is based on the stratigraphic section of the Alps described in Mostler *et al.* (1978) and was again influenced by Wiedmann (1972). However, in view of the highly corroded and badly preserved single specimen of this ammonite, its systematic position is doubtful. Another specimen was recorded by Basse (1968) from Carnian deposits of central Serbia but was not figured and the record is thought to be based on a misinterpretation.

In contrast, the ammonites from the more or less continuous sedimentary sequences across the Triassic/Jurassic boundary of Nevada/USA clearly show the derivation of the lytoceratids from the ammonite family Psiloceratida during the earliest Hettangian and confirm the monophlyy of both the Ammonitina Hyatt, 1889 and its component superfamily Lytoceratoidea Neumayr, 1875 (Guex and Taylor 1976; Guex 1987, 1995; Guex *et al.* 2004; Hillebrandt 2000; Shigeta 2006; Hoffmann and Keupp 2008). Despite the fact that “*Trachyphyllites*” is now an Early Jurassic member of lytoceratids, its systematic relationship

within the Lytoceratoidea remains questionable. Houša (1965, p. 35) stressed for the first time the necessity of a systematic revision to clarify the position of the genus *Analytoceras* and related forms within the Lytoceratoidea in respect of the presumed derivation from “*Trachyphyllites*”. Krystyn (1982) grouped “*T. costatus*” within the Jurassic genus *Audaxlytoceras* Fucini, 1923, and later (Krystyn 1999) treated *Trachyphyllites* as a valid genus, which he placed together with *Analytoceras* in the family Pleuroacanthitidae. This classification was followed by Sprey (2002), while Venturi and Bilotta (2008) still accepted the genus “*Trachyphyllites* Arthaber” classified within the Analytoceratidae Spath, 1927.

## NEW MATERIAL FROM BIHATI/ SW TIMOR

During fieldtrips by R. Veit (Velden/Vils) and Dr. W. Weitschat (Hamburg) in 2003 and 2005, and in July/August 2008 by one of the authors (H.K.) together with Dr. W. Weitschat and R. Veit, to the Bihati river region south of Baun, in Amarassi Province, SW Timor/ Indonesia, based on a cooperation contract between the Freie Universität Berlin and the Universitas Gadhja Mada in Yokjakarta, some additional Early Jurassic fossils were collected from smaller erratic boulders (some dm in diameter) on the slope of the Bihati Canyon, including three specimens of “*Trachyphyllites costatum* Arthaber” (Text-fig. 2A–D). These lytoceratids, which are the subject of the taxonomic revision presented herein, were accompanied by a characteristic Hettangian cephalopod association containing, besides other taxa (see Krystyn 1978): *Atractites alpinus* Gümbel, *Paradasyceras uermoesense* (Herbich), *Geyeroceras cylindricum* (Sowerby), *Ectocentrites cf. petersi* (Hauer), *Paracaloceras* sp. Smaller boulders also containing *Pseudotropites ultratriassicus* (Canavari) demonstrate that the characteristic Early Jurassic Hallstatt facies ranges up into the Sinemurian. The finds of *Analytoceras articulatum* (Sowerby) as figured by Sprey (2002, pl. 7, fig. 3) from the Krystyn collection, accompanied by *Ectocentrites petersi*, seem to be also of Late Hettangian age, but could not have been found in the same erratic boulders together with “*Trachyphyllites costatum*”.

The three new specimens of “*Trachyphyllites costatum*” (Text-fig. 2A–D) are stored at the Freie Universität Berlin, Institute of Geological Sciences, collection Keupp under the numbers: MAn-3218. MAn-1897, MAn-x (= cast of the unnumbered specimen in the R. Veit collection) and labelled *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel, 1861).

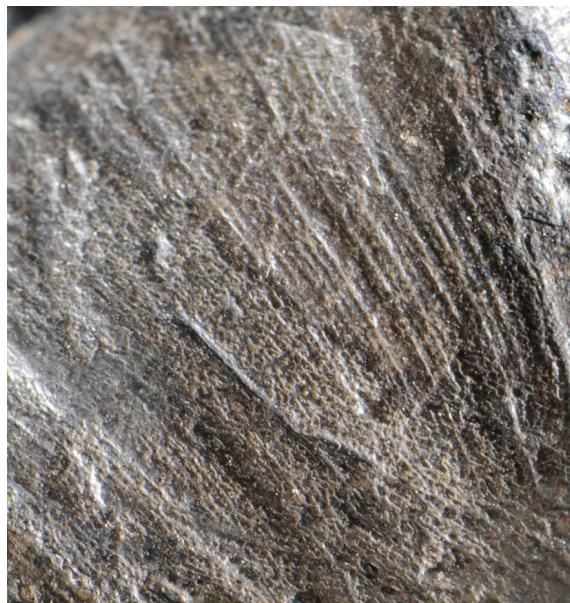


Text-fig. 2. Three specimens of *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel) from the Bihati river valley south of Baun, SW Timor (Amarassi Province): A – MAn-x (coll. R. Veit), Ø 101 mm. B – MAn-3218, Ø 81 mm. C – MAn-1897 (leg. R. Veit), Ø 84 mm, on the left side the shell was removed to show the suture line. D – right side of the same specimen

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW SPECIMENS

The three specimens range in size from 81 to 101 mm and are preserved without the body chamber. The shells have been calcified during diagenesis and appear black owing to a thin manganese crust cover. Also corresponding to the slow sedimentation rate of the “Hallstatt facies”, small crinoid roots were grow-

ing *post mortem* on one side of the shells. In all three specimens the centre of the umbilicus, including the ammonella, has been lost. The umbilicus is wide, about 45 %. Beginning at a shell diameter of about 6 mm, six to seven parabolic ribs per whorl appear. The smooth interspaces between the parabolic ribs show fine retroradiate striae that are finely crenulated (Text-fig. 3).



Text-fig. 3. Finely crenulated striae of *Analytoceras hermanni* (MAN-3218), image section about one cm

After about 80 mm shell diameter, the parabolic ribs (MAN-x) develop more and more flair-like prominent collars and the ventro-laterally parabolic nodes change to long spines with irregular growth-direction like in the holotype of *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel) figured by

Wähner (1894, pl. 7, figs 4a-d) (Text-fig. 1C-D). The whorl section is circular to slightly compressed.

The suture line was uncovered by polishing (specimen MAN-1897, Text-fig. 2C and Text-fig. 4) the right flank of the outer whorl between 75 and 84 mm shell diameter (= 30 mm whorl height). It shows a short external lobe (E) and a dominant asymmetrical trifid lateral lobe extending significantly further back than E. The terminal ends of its ventral branch nearly reach the siphonal area. The also deeply incised trifid umbilical lobe ( $U_2$ ) appears more asymmetrical than figured by Wiedmann (1970), where the suture line of the more juvenile stage of “*Trachiphyllites*” (at 10 mm wh) was reproduced.

## DISCUSSION

We agree with Venturi and Bilotta (2008) that all the morphological features of “*Trachiphyllites costatum*” fit the diagnostic characters of the genus *Analytoceras*. This genus was originally established by Hyatt (1900) without any figure, but with *Analytoceras (Lytoceras) articulatum* Wähner designated as type species. Arkell *et al.* (1957) regarded *Ammonites articulatus* J. Sowerby (in De la Beche, 1831, p. 334, fig. 70) as type species, but reproduced the figure of *Lytoceras articulatum* given by Wähner (1894, pl. 7, fig. 4a-d). Therefore,



Text-fig. 4. Suture line of *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel, 1861) from the Hettangian of Bihati River, Timor at whorl height of 30 mm (MAN-1897, Text-fig. 2C); compare with simplified suture (due to heavy abrasion) of *A. hermanni* (Text-fig. 1C), as presented in Wähner (1894 pl. 3, fig. 3a)

Specimen	D (mm)	wh (mm)	wb (mm)	wh/wb	Uw (mm)	Uw/D (%)	WER
<i>A. hermanni</i> (holotype) after Wöhner (1894; pl. 7, fig. 4a-d).	108	33	38	0.87	50	46.3	2.07
“ <i>Trachyphyllites costatus</i> ” (holotype) after Arthaber (1927; pl. 17, fig. 3)	44	14	12	1.17	21	47.7	2.15
Bihati: MAn-3218	22	7	6.3	1.1	9.6	43.6	2.15
Bihati: MAn-1897	81	26	24	1.08	37	45.7	2.17
Bihati: MAn-x (coll. R.Veit)	84	28	25	1.12	37.7	44.9	2.25
	101 (82.5)	33.6 (28.1)		1.07	45.3	44.8	2.30

Table 1. Measurements of *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel 1861) from the Hettangian of Bihati River, Timor in comparison with the holotype from the Northern Alps

based on the original designation of Hyatt (1900), Hoffmann (2009) suggested that the specimen figured by Wöhner (1894, pl. 7, fig. 4a–d) and also by Arkell *et al.* (1957, p. L192, fig. 222/2a–d) be chosen as the lectotype of the type species, *Analytoceras articulatum* (J. Sowerby, 1831). The characterization of the genus *Analytoceras* given by Hoffmann (2009) includes the following features:

- Moderate shell size, fairly evolute whorls with an expansion rate of 2.0–3.3 and umbilical width between 32 and 48 % (Text-fig. 5).
- Whorl section circular to slightly compressed.
- Juvenile stages with deep regular, radial to slightly prospiradiate constrictions associated with fine radial ribs in front of the constrictions also crossing the venter.
- At middle growth stage parabolic ribs curving backwards and crossing the growth lines occur with a great variability. Later stages developing high flare-like parabolic ribs, with associated ventrolateral spines (Text-fig. 2A–D).
- Except for parabolic sculptures, the ornamentation is characterized by very delicate fine striae with weak fimbriation (Text-fig. 3).
- The adult suture line is characterized by a short external lobe (E), reaching about one third of the length of the lateral lobe (L), L and U<sub>2</sub> are trifid and broad (Text-fig. 4). Main saddles (E/L and L/U) are partly asymmetric bifid, all saddles with phylloid endings. The external branch of L ends immediately below the E lobe near the siphuncle area or barely in contact with the broad siphonal band, which is divided by a simple triangular siphonal saddle (Wöhner 1894). The internal su-

ture line shows a broad, non-cruciform, bifid internal lobe (I) incised with weak lateral branches. The terminal branches of I are not incised. The internal lobe generates an intermediate septal lobe (Canavari 1888, pl. 9, fig. 8; Salfeld 1924, pl. 3, fig. 1–2).

*Analytoceras* is stratigraphically restricted to the Hettangian of the Mediterranean–Tethyan area: Austria, central Apennine (Italy), Timor (Krumbeck 1923; Arthaber 1927; Canavari 1882; Wöhner 1894; Krystyn 1982; Dommergues 1994; Bertinelli *et al.* 2004).

Morphological affinities, such as the first appearance of weakly crenulated striae (mentioned in “*Trachyphyllites costatus*” for the first time by Wiedmann (1970)) which represent an apomorphic character for *Analytoceras* Hoffmann (2009), and the first appearance of an intermediate septal lobe (Salfeld 1924; Hoffmann 2009) give hints that *Analytoceras* might be the direct ancestor of *Lytoceras* Suess, 1865 (Text-fig. 6).

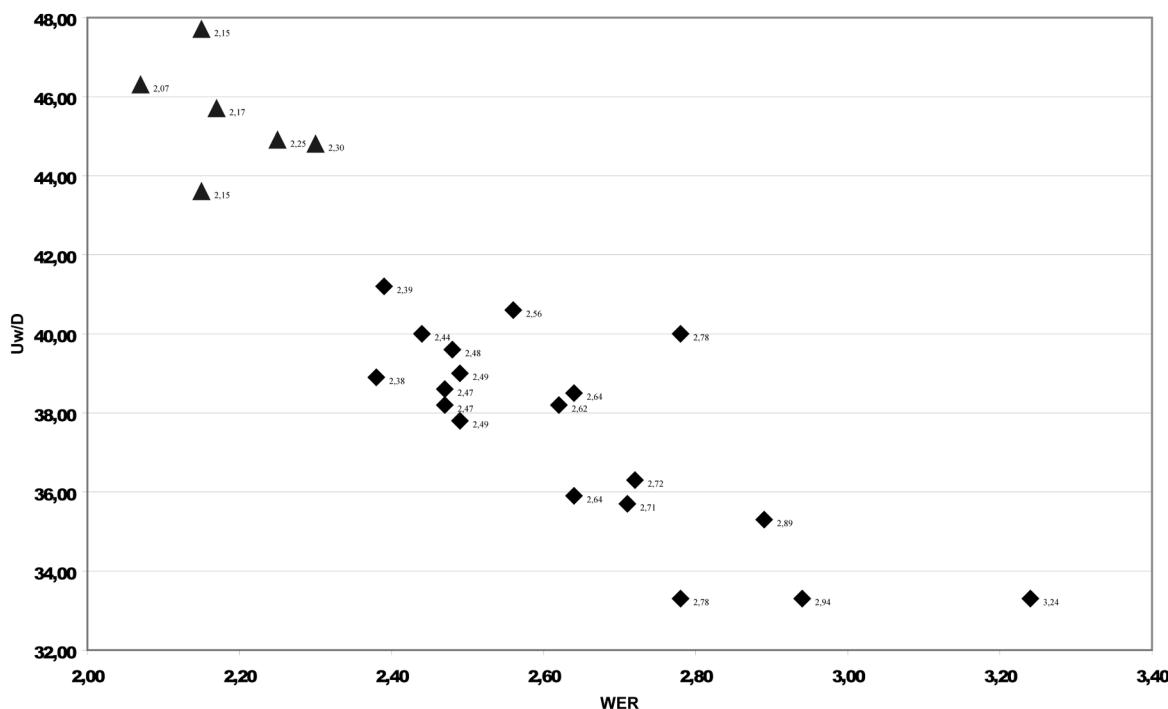
Wöhner (1894) recognized two different morphotypes in *Analytoceras articulatum*, Type A and Type B. Type A corresponds to the lectotype and differs from Type B in less evolute coiling and a significant higher whorl expansion rate. The Type B was first described by Gümbel (1861) as *Ammonites hermanni* (Text-fig. 1C–D) on the basis of an unfigured specimen from the Northern Alps. The same specimen was figured for the first time 33 years later by Wöhner (1894, pl. 3, fig. 3a,b, see Text-fig. 1). Besides the morphological differences, Wöhner considered both morphotypes to be subjective synonyms. The ornamentation and measurements, particularly the width of the umbilicus and the whorl expansion rate, of all the Bihati-specimens are close to those of Gümbel’s specimen of *Analytoceras hermanni*.

Only the whorl section, which also shows a wide range of variability in *Analytoceras articulatum* Type A (cf. Wöhner 1894, p. 45: wh/wb = 0.8–1.25%) differs. Thus, the whorl section is more or less circular, rather slightly depressed in Gümbel's specimen (wh/wb = 0.87), while slightly compressed in the Bihati specimens (wh/wb: 1.07–1.17).

## SYSTEMATIC PALAEONTOLOGY

Order Phylloceratida Arkell, 1950 (incl. Phylloceratina and Ammonitina)  
 Suborder Ammonitina Hyatt, 1900  
 Superfamily Lytoceratoidea Neumayr, 1875  
 Family Lytoceratidae Neumayr, 1875  
 Subfamily Analytoceratinae Spath, 1927  
 Species *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel, 1861)  
 1861. *Ammonites Hermanni* C.W. Gümbel, p. 474; (figured in: Wöhner 1894; pl. 3, fig. 3a–b).  
 1894. *Lytoceras articulatum* (J. Sowerby, 1831) Type B: Wöhner; pl. 3, fig. 3a–b.  
 non 1894. *Lytoceras articulatum* (J. Sowerby, 1831) Type A: Wöhner; pl. 7, fig. 1–5; pl. 8, fig. 2–15.  
 1927. *Monophyllites* (*Trachyphyllites*) *costatus* G. Arthaber, p. 141, pl. 17, fig. 3.

1934. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber; L.F. Spath, p. 326, text-fig. 112.  
 1952. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber; E. Basse, pp. 597–598, 602, fig. 46.3a–b.  
 1957. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arth.; W.J. Arkell *et al.*, p. L187, fig. 217, 1a,b.  
 1958. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arth.; V.V. Drushchits In: V.V. Luppov, p. 70.  
 1961. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arth.; O.H. Schindewolf, p. 85, text-fig. 42.  
 1966a. *Trachyphyllites* Arthaber; J. Wiedmann, p. 56.  
 1967. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arth.; C. Teichert, p. 194.  
 1968. *Trachyphyllites* Arthaber; O.H. Schindewolf, p. 56 (748).  
 1970. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber; J. Wiedmann, p. 939 ff., text-fig. 8a–b, pl. 5, fig. 6.  
 1970. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber; J. Wiedmann and J. Kullmann, text-fig. 14 f.  
 1971a. *Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber; E.T. Tozer, p. 565.  
 1971b. *Trachyphyllites*; E.T. Tozer, p. 1003.  
 1973. *Trachyphyllites*; J. Wiedmann, p. 171, 172, 175.  
 1974. *Trachyphyllites*; V.V. Drushchits and I.A. Mikhailova, p. 470.  
 1975. *Trachyphyllites*; J. Guex, p. 203, 205.  
 1976. *Trachyphyllites costatus*; U. Lehmann, p. 44, 45, text-fig. 38, 157.  
 1978. *Trachyphyllites*; L. Krystyn, p. 67.  
 1981. *Trachyphyllites*; E.T. Tozer, p. 84.

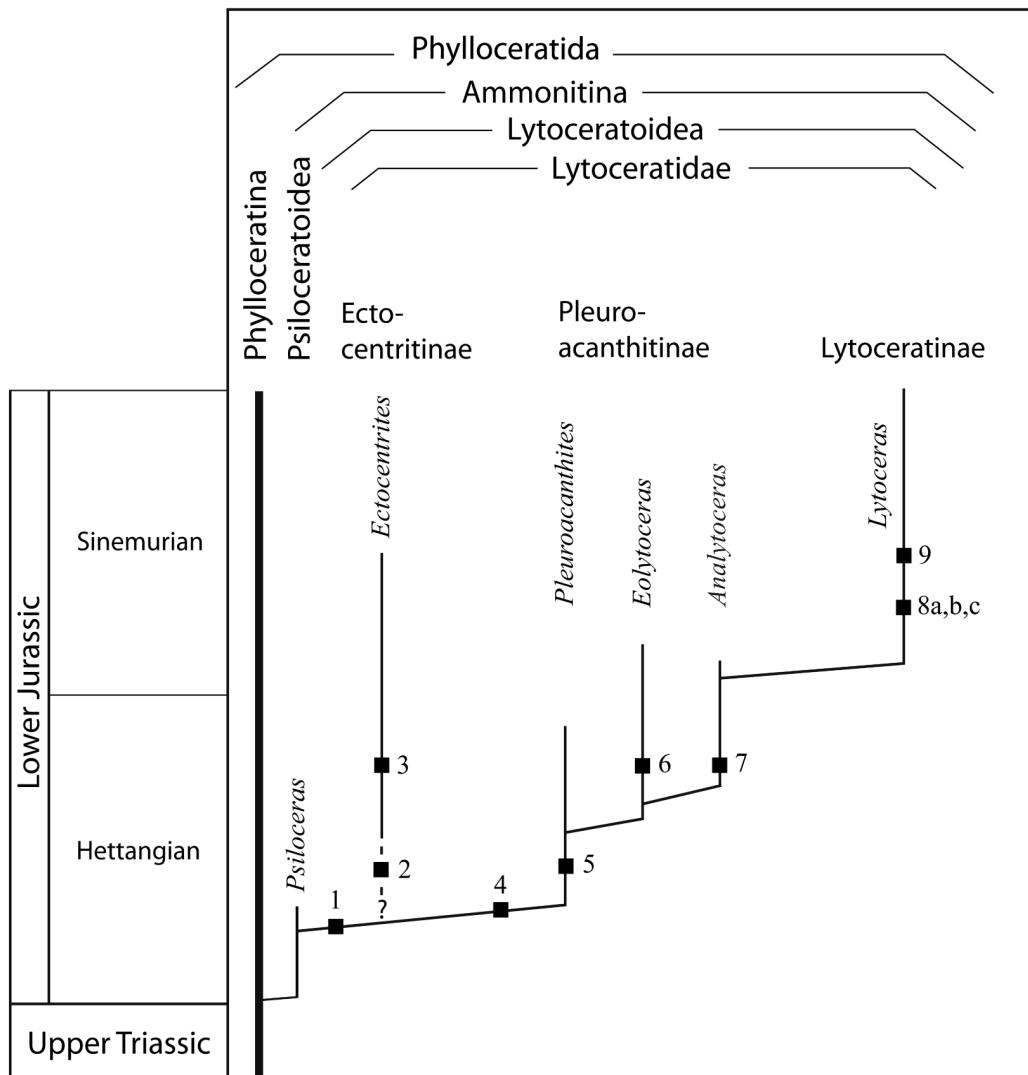


Text-fig. 5. Relationship of Uw/D and WER clearly separates *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel) including “*Trachyphyllites costatum* Arthaber” (▲) from *Analytoceras articulatum* (J. Sowerby) (◆) by their different morphospace

1981. *Trachyphyllites*; J. Wiedmann and J. Kullmann, p. 238, text-fig. 13f.
1982. *Trachyphyllites*; L. Krystyn, p. 57.
1986. *Trachyphyllites*; C. Teichert, p. 235.
1988. *Trachyphyllites*; C. Teichert, p. 60.
1999. *Trachyphyllites*; L. Krystyn, p. 66.
2002. *Trachyphyllites costatus*; A. Sprey, p. 92.
2008. *Analytoceras* sp.; R. Hoffmann and H. Keupp, p. 246, fig. 10 (left-hand side)
2009. *Analytoceras* cf. *articulatum* (Sow.); H. Keupp; fig. 6.

## CONCLUSIONS

Due to the morphological consistency of the Bihati specimens (including Arthaber's specimen of "*Trachyphyllites costatus*"), which is clearly distinguished from morphotypes of *Analytoceras articulatum*, "Type A" (see Text-fig. 5), we re-establish the species name *Analytoceras hermanni* (Gümbel, 1861) for Wöhner's "Type B" form of *Analytoceras articulatum*, including "*Trachyphyllites costatus* Arthaber, 1927" as a junior subjective synonym.



Text-fig. 6. Phylogeny of lower Jurassic lytoceratid ammonoids with *Analytoceras* as direct ancestor of *Lytoceras* modified after Hoffmann (2009); black boxes represent apomorphic characters: 1 – tendency to generate a septal lobe (intermediate) attached to the basis of the preceding septum (Lytoceroidea). 2 – strong ornamented, simple, straight ribs with nodes and spines (Ectocentrinae). 3 – ventrolateral nodes or spines, juveniles with regular constrictions becoming weak to nearly unrecognisable to the naked eye in the adult stage (*Ectocentrites*). 4 – parabolic ribs (Pleuroacanthitinae). 5 – feeble ventral median keel (*Pleuroacanthites*). 6 – weak ventrolateral parabolic nodes (*Eolytoceras*). 7 – fimbriate growth lines, high-crested parabolic ribs with ventrolateral nodes and spines (*Analytoceras*). 8a – septal lobe attached to the surface of the preceding septum. 8b – fimbriate ribs with parabolic ribs transformed to flares. 8c – bifid L lobe at the adult stage (Lytoceratinae). 9 – fimbriate flares (*Lytoceras*)

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